COVID-19 Outbreak: Extension of Validity Periods for National Licences, Ratings and Certificates of Flight Crew

1) The Civil Aviation Authority (‘the CAA’), pursuant to Article 266 of the Air Navigation Order 2016 (‘the Order’), exempts holders of a United Kingdom Flight Crew Licence from the requirements of Articles 154, 155 and 157 of the Order.

2) Subject to the conditions in (3), (4), (5) and (6) flight crew licence holders are exempt from the validity requirements of Class, Type, Instrument, Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IMC) Ratings and Class Rating Instructor (CRI) and Flight Instructor (FI) Certificates endorsed within the flight crew licence in accordance with Schedule 8 of the Order and that expire on or after 16 March 2020 and before 31 October 2020, which may be extended until the end of the validity period of this Exemption:

3) For the purpose of this exemption a United Kingdom Flight Crew Licences means;

   (i) National Private Pilot’s Licence (Aeroplanes), (Helicopters) and (Microlights),

   (ii) Private Pilot’s Licence (Aeroplanes), (Helicopters), (Gyroplanes), (Microlights),

   (Balloons and Airships).

   (iii) Commercial Pilot’s Licence (Aeroplanes), (Helicopters), (Gyroplanes) and (Balloons).

   (iv) Airline Transport Pilot’s Licence (Aeroplanes and Helicopters).

4) For the purpose of this exemption a class and type rating means;

   (i) a single pilot, non-complex\(^1\) and non-high-performance aeroplane including TMGs and SLMGs,

   (ii) a single pilot helicopter,

   (iii) any single engine gyroplane,

   (iv) any balloon or airship,

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\(^1\) Complex aircraft as defined in the EASA Basic Regulation (Commission Regulation (EC) 2018/1139).

The latest version of this document is available in electronic format at www.caa.co.uk/publications, where you may also register for e-mail notification of amendments.
5) Class, Type, Instrument, IMC Ratings;
   (i) hold a valid class or type rating, valid after the 16 March 2020.
   (ii) where applicable, hold a valid Instrument or IMC Rating, valid after the 16 March 2020.

   (1) have received refresher briefing from a CRI or FI applicable to the class, type, Instrument or IMC Rating to be maintained. The training briefing should include abnormal and emergency procedures.

   (2) Upon completion of the briefing, the means to confirm the extension of licence validity shall be as per note 4 by a FE, CRE or Revalidation Examiner or an instructor with FCL.945 privileges.

6) Holders of Instructor and examiner privileges;
   (i) hold a valid examiner and/or instructor privileges, valid after the 16 March 2020:

   (1) have received an appropriate briefing from an appropriately qualified instructor or examiner with the relevant privileges or a training organisation approved to conduct Refresher Training appropriate to the qualifications being extended.

   (2) Upon completion of the briefing, the licence/certificate shall be endorsed by means stated in note 4 to this exemption

7) Class 1, 2 and LAPL Medical Certificates are exempt from the validity requirements of Article 161 (7) subject to the following conditions:

   (i) The pilot held a Medical Certificate valid after the 16 March 2020 or has made a declaration in accordance with Article 163.

   (ii) The pilot must not have experienced a reduction in medical fitness in accordance with Article 166.

8) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No. 1376, which is revoked.

9) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 22 November 2020, both dates inclusive, unless previously revoked.

J Overall
for the Civil Aviation Authority
15 April 2020
Explanatory Note:

1. The CAA is aware that training organisations and individual licence holders may have difficulties in completing training and checking during the period of the COVID-19 infection and has issued this exemption.

2. Any questions or queries regarding the application of this exemption should be made, in the first instance, for training organisations to the relevant FOI or LSI or affiliated associations, for individual pilots to the General Aviation Unit at ga.ga@caa.co.uk.

3. The CAA will keep this Exemption under constant review and react as necessary to the circumstances which are expected to change.

4. Recording of extension of privileges:
   (a) Licence holders: Recording of the extension of the recency validity period, should be subject to a briefing that can be conducted via preferably an electronic audio-visual link or telephone or in person maintaining social distancing requirements, covering theoretical knowledge and flight safety subjects.

   The confirmation of this briefing is to be recorded in the logbook in one of the following methods:

   (i) the instructor/examiner will confirm by electronic means this to be printed and affixed to the logbook; or.

   (ii) the instructor/examiner will confirm by letter this to be affixed to the logbook; or

   (iii) the instructor/examiner to make an entry in the logbook; and

   (iv) a copy of this exemption notice is to be carried as part of their licence

   (b) To demonstrate compliance with Part MED aircrew should carry their (expired) medical certificate and a copy of the exemption notice as part of their licence.

5. It is the intention of the CAA to resume normal licensing requirements as soon as the situation returns to normality.

6. Pilots should be aware that as this exemption is provided to National Licence holders, the CAA cannot confirm that Member States of EASA or other ICAO States will accept the provisions after 45 days, which in accordance with provisions of the Chicago Convention is the maximum provisions of alleviations normally accepted.

7. All pilots should be aware of HM Government's current position on recreational flying, prior to any flights.